

Chez M. Digue

4368

Rue Cavaitlon.

St. Tropez. Var. Oct. 25. 21.

My dear Pippa

I don't know whether you think I ought to write to you or you to me - but ~~it~~ it would seem right that some letters shd. pass & with my Quaker conscience I feel to blame - no doubt you'll take advantage of it & agree with me. But you see till yesterday it's been impossible. With perpetual hot summer water one had to persist out of doors all the day long except what one spent in bathing in a hot blue calm bay where you can all night go to sleep floating on your back. & then after dinner one was in no mood to do anything energetic or dutiful or appropriate however desirable the results might be. But ~~the~~ yesterday all of a sudden winter came on with a howling rush from the North - the bay became a grey welter of water & spray & the rain which the Tropicians have been waiting for since February came down very little at first but steadily getting more & more so it's become a time for still lines & letters & chess problems & accounts - in fact the moral

Sense comes back with the disagreeable weather.

This sounds as tho' I write to you from a sense of duty which isn't fortunately the case.

I have a very nice little house here with a garden wdy in terrace ~~to~~ behind up to the citadel of St. Tropez. The garden is full of barking dogs, cwoy pigeons and chucking hens. The hens rook on my banisters & the dogs on the staircase just outside my bedroom - you'll of course imagine from this that the house is of more than Provencal squalor & filth but it isn't it's spotlessly clean kept by a retired couple who spend their whole time keep'g this in order & garden'g & feed'g their innumerable hants. I have my meals at a workman's restaurant - not very good but consid'g this is the most expensive place in France quite cheap at 3.50.

Vanessa & Duncan are settled in their palatial villa up on the hill about a quarter of an hour's walk with an amazing panorama of the Bay. I went to St. Raphael to pick up the pieces of the family after their appall'g journey all piled together in a 2nd class carriage. They were all asleep when they got there & although they ~~gave~~ threw most of the children & all the baggage onto the platform - some of the pieces got left in the carriage & have never turned up since. I don't say you've seen Marjory since she's been

back tho' praps not as she's been having Malaisia
 which she got in Pisa. If so you'll know all about
 our raid into Italy to fetch Pamela back from Bagni
 di Lucca when she stayed. Poor dear Bagni di Lucca
 isn't Italy at its best being more like Cheltenham but
 she got to Florence & stopped at Lucca & Pisa with me
 so she got some idea of it. I found it very exciting
 to be back in Italy after so many years. It is extraordinary
 to see Excty to see architecture again & almost all
 the architecture worth looking at is in Italy. Do you
 know Lucca it's almost too perfect to be quite real.
 All the same I was quite glad to get back here. The
 whole effect is much more southern ~~than~~ than Italy
 the vegetation much stranger. It's much hotter & drier
 & the atmosphere is more beautiful. This is of course
 S. of Florence a little but it's ~~a~~ it seems a great
 deal warmer than Italy. We had some ^{tempting}
 scenes with the Ferriviani. At Pisa they're ^{improved} perfected
 the system of brigandage & so thoroughly that it's almost
 impossible to register luggage, and when the train comes
 in one has just to take out notes until they give in.
 Margery got very indignant and began to think of
 abstract justice but I persuaded her to consider the
 postmen as armed & unmasked brigands and to act
 accordingly & we just scraped through.

I'm painting very hard now - get up at 7.0 & paint almost without a break (a picnic lunch) till 3.30 when it gets too dark.

I've had all my pictures accepted at the Autumn Salon & am now a socitaire so I can always rely on showing 2. But there's been a great row this year the Jury reject, wildly & apparently very unfairly so that perhaps it's no compliment to have job through.

Have you seen my father's life? & what do you think of it? I think it's very well done for what it sets out to be but I wonder whether Virginia will get her claws into it & what Lytton will say. It's the purest quintessence of Victorianism. Do write & tell me about it. If you can't get hold of a copy (I don't recommend you to buy it) you shall have mine as soon as I get back. which won't be very long now - but there's time to have a nice long letter from you with all your news.

Please give my love to her Ladyship & tell me how she does. I've meant to write to her but alas as you see! I shall be glad to see you when I get back yours are of the few things that will really console me for seeing Victoria Station again. Apart from that how dreadful that sound. We ought ~~not~~ really to colonize this land. Yrs. ever Roger



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